



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: **DCAB 2004-14:** Are level changes allowed along a ramp, within a ramp landing, or at the transition from a ramp to a ramp landing?

Summary: The current ADAAG Section 4.8, Ramps, does not specifically address a vertical abrupt change in level along a ramp, within a ramp landing, or at the transition from a ramp to a ramp landing. Both the U.S. Access Board and the Department of Justice indicated that although they would not disallow it, they discourage this condition. In the ADAAG Section 4.7.2, Curb Ramps, which specifically addresses curb ramps, requires that a transition from ramps, to walks, gutters, or streets shall be flush and free from abrupt changes. In addition, The U.S. Access Board addresses this condition in the "Draft Final Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines" in Chapter 4, Accessible Routes, Section 405.7.1 Slope, published April 2, 2002 which states changes in level are not permitted.

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS § 103-50,

ADAAG: 4.3.8 Accessible Routes - Changes in level.

Changes in level other than the running slope and the cross slope are not permitted on ramp runs. Transitions from ramps to walks shall be flush and free from changes. Changes in level are not permitted at ramp landings.

[Rul: 07/04] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call 586-8121.

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